Madhopur, how many times it has been extended during the last 20 years, the amount of compensation/assistance given to the affected persons on account of this;

(b) what facilities are proposed to be provided by Government to persons and villages in the adjoining areas of the project; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend any compensation for the damage caused by wild animals in villages and farms adjoining the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The area covered under Ranthambhor Tiger Project initially during launch of "Project Tiger" in 1973 was 392.5 sq. km. During the last 20 years, it has been extended through three notifications, and the present area is 1394.478 sq. km. The State Government has reported that since the extension of the area did not involve rehabilitation of local communities, no compensation was provided.

(b) The villages within 2 kms. from the periphery of Tiger Reserve have been included in the India Eco- Development Project, where Eco-Development Committees have been formed and village-wise microplans have been prepared and eco-developmental inputs have been provided.

(c) Compensation is paid for loss of domestic livestock by wild carnivores within a radius of 10 kms. from the periphery of the Tiger Reserve. As on date there is no provision for crop compensation in the State.

Pollution from Chloro-alkali and petro-chemicals units

2551. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small and medium scale Chloro-alkali and petro-chemicals units emit over 40 per cent of hazardous dioxin pollutants in the air during manufacturing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to notify these units, on the level of pollution emitted by them;

(d) the number of such units still operating, either in chloro-alkali or petro-chemical fields; and

(e) whether Government have any plans to phase out such units, to negotiate these dangerous environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Chloro-alkali and Petro-chemicals units do not figure in the list of industrial source categories with high potential for release of dioxins and furans as identified under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. However, dioxins could be unintentionally formed and released from specific chemical production processes, especially production of chlorophenols and chloranil.

(e) No, Sir.

Impact of mining on ecology in Aravali

2552. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale illegal mining activities are continuing, causing rampant destruction of forests and ecology in the Aravali range;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what proposals Government are planning, to stop such ecological destruction in the area; and

(d) what are the findings of the committee constituted by the Ministry and its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) It has been reported by the State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan that it would be incorrect to say that large scale illegal mining activities are continuing in the Aravali range and causing rampant destruction of forests and ecology. The Ministry of Environment